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PTO/PCT Rec'd 13 NOV 2000

BOX PCT
PATENT
0179-0164P

IN THE U.S. PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Ralf-Peter PETERS et al.
INTERNATIONAL APPL. NO.: PCT/EP99/01607
Appl. No.: 09/623,910
Filed: September 11, 2000

L E T T E R


Assistant Commissioner for Patents November 13, 2000 (Monday)
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Enclosed herewith is a Statement (Declaration) Claiming
Small Entity Status (37 C.F.R. §§ 1.9(f) and 1.27(b)) -
Independent Inventor (☒ original ☐ photocopy) which should be
made part of the record of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP

By 
Marc S. Weiner, #32,181

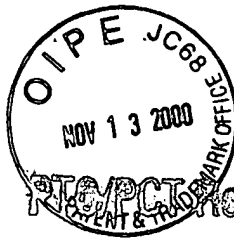
MSW/sh
0179-0164P

P.O. Box 747
Falls Church, VA 22040-0747
(703) 205-8000

Attachment

(Rev. 04/19/2000)

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BOX PCT
PATENT
0179-0164P

4

IN THE U.S. PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Ralf-Peter PETERS et al.
INTERNATIONAL APPL. NO.: PCT/EP99/01607
Appl. No.: 09/623,910
Filed: September 11, 2000
For: SAMPLE SUPPORT
ATTENTION: Refund Section
Accounting Division
OFFICE OF FINANCE

REQUEST FOR A REFUND OF 50% OF THE FILING FEE

BOX PCT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents November 13, 2000 (Monday)
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

The following documentation and remarks are respectfully submitted in connection with the above-identified application.

DOCUMENTATION

Attached hereto is a copy of an executed Statement Claiming Small Entity Status (37 C.F.R. § 1.9(f) and 1.27(b)) - Independent Inventor, Small Entity Status (37 C.F.R. § 1.9(f) and 1.27(c)) - Small Business Concern and Small Entity Status (37 C.F.R. § 1.9(f) and 1.27(c)) - Small Business Concern filed on even date herewith under separate cover.

REMARKS

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.28(a), applicants hereby request a refund of 50% of the Filing Fee. Small entity status has been established by the filing of a statement on November 13, 2000.

BEST AVAILABLE COPY

Small entity applicants may now file the necessary Statement within two (2) months of the date of payment of any particular fee and request a refund. Attached hereto is a copy of the Statement Claiming Small Entity Status as Independent Inventor and Statement Claiming Small Entity Status as Small Business Concern. The present application qualifies for the reduced fees as implemented by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on October 1, 1982, and further amended on January 20, 1983.

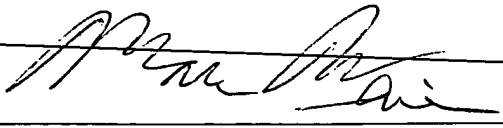
The present application was filed on September 11, 2000 with a filing fee of \$2,058.00. It is respectfully requested that the excess fee of \$1,029.00 be credited to Deposit Account No. 02-2448.

Favorable action on the present Request is respectfully requested.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fee required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

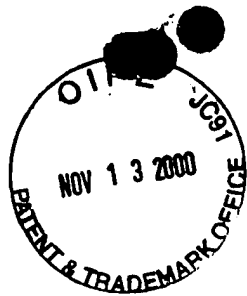
BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP

By 
Marc S. Weiner, #32,181

MSW/sh
0179-0164P
Attachments

P.O. Box 747
Falls Church, VA 22040-0747
(703)-205-8000

(Rev. 04/19/2000)



BOX PCT
PATENT
0179-0164P

IN THE U.S. PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Ralf-Peter PETERS et al.
INTERNATIONAL APPL. NO.: PCT/EP99/01607
Appl. No.: 09/623,910
Filed: September 11, 2000

L E T T E R

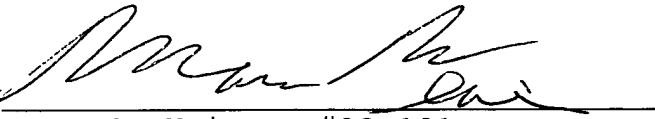
Assistant Commissioner for Patents November 13, 2000 (Monday)
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Enclosed herewith is a Statement (Declaration) Claiming
Small Entity Status (37 C.F.R. §§ 1.9(f) and 1.27(c)) - Small
Business Concern (☒ Original ☐ Photocopy) which should be made
part of the record of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP

BY 
Marc S. Weiner, #32,181

MSW/sh
0179-0164P
Attachment

P.O. Box 747
Falls Church, VA 22040-0747
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414 Rec'd PCT/PTO 13 NOV 2000

BOX PCT
PATENT
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5

IN THE U.S. PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANT: Ralf-Peter PETERS et al.
INTERNATIONAL APPL. NO.: PCT/EP99/01607
APPL. NO.: 09/623,910
FILED: September 11, 2000
FOR: SAMPLE SUPPORT

LETTER SUBMITTING ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTS FOR
ENTERING NATIONAL PHASE FOR A PCT APPLICATION

BOX PCT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents November 13, 2000 (Monday)
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

Under the provisions of 37 C.F.R. § 1.494 or 37 C.F.R. § 1.495, attached hereto are the following additional items necessary for entering the national phase in connection with the above-identified PCT international application.

- ☒ Executed Declaration and Power of Attorney.
- ☒ Original ☐ Photocopy
- ☐ The specification attached to the executed Declaration and Power of Attorney is a true copy of the specification which was filed in the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on September 11, 2000, including any amendments thereto (if applicable) filed on even date therewith.

☒ The undersigned hereby declares that "Attorney Docket No. 0179-0164P" on page 1 of the attached inventors' Declaration corresponds to Appl. No. 09/623,910 filed September 11, 2000 entitled "SAMPLE SUPPORT."

☐ English language specification, claims, and Abstract with () sheets of drawings.

☒ Applicant claims small entity status under 37 C.F.R. § 1.27.

☒ Attached is a copy of Form PCT/DO/EO/905.

☐ _____

☐ No extension fee is required because the undersigned has not yet received the Notification of Missing Requirements (Form PCT/DO/EO/905). However, if for some reason it is determined that an extension of time is necessary, applicant hereby respectfully petitions for an extension of time for the filing of the present paper in accordance with the provisions of 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 and 37 C.F.R. § 1.17.

☐ Applicant(s) hereby respectfully petitions for () month(s) extension of time for the filing of the present paper in accordance with the provisions of 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 and 37 C.F.R. § 1.17. The required fee of \$0.00 is attached hereto.


The Government Filing Surcharge in the amount of \$130.00 in accordance with 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.494 and 1.492 was previously paid for concurrently with the filing of the application on September 11, 2000.

- ☒ Submitted concurrently herewith **under separate cover** for recording is an Assignment.
- ☐ A check in the amount of \$0.00 to cover the above-mentioned fees is enclosed.
- ☐ A Fee of \$0.00 to cover the increase in fees of the filing Surcharge is enclosed.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fee required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP

By 
Marc S. Weiner, #32,181

MSW/sh
0179-0164P

P.O. Box 747
Falls Church, VA 22040-0747
(703) 205-8000

Attachments

(Rev. 11/03/2000)

09/623910

097623,910



PETERS

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
 Patent and Trademark Office
 Address: ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
 Box PCT
 Washington, D.C. 20231

R

179-164

U.S. APPLICATION NO.	FIRST NAMED APPLICANT	ATTY. DOCKET NO.
002292	5071	PCT/EP99/01607
BIRCH STEWART KOLASCH & BIRCH P O BOX 747 FALLS CHURCH VA 22040-0747		
INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION NO.		
I.A. FILING DATE 03/11/98 PRIORITY DATE 03/11/98		
DATE MAILED: 10/24/00		

NOTIFICATION OF MISSING REQUIREMENTS UNDER 35 U.S.C. 371 IN THE UNITED STATES DESIGNATED/ELECTED OFFICE (DO/EO/US)

1. The following items have been submitted by the applicant or the IB to the United States Patent and Trademark Office as

- ☐ a Designated Office (37 CFR 1.494),
- ☒ an Elected Office (37 CFR 1.495):
- ☒ U.S. Basic National Fee.
- ☒ Copy of the international application in:
 - ☐ a non-English language.
 - ☐ English.
- ☒ Translation of the international application into English.
- ☐ Oath or Declaration of inventor(s) for DO/EO/US.
- ☐ Copy of Article 19 amendments.
- ☐ Translation of Article 19 amendments into English.
- ☐ The International Preliminary Examination Report in English and its Annexes, if any.
- ☐ Translation of Annexes to the International Preliminary Examination Report into English.
- ☒ Preliminary amendment(s) filed 11 SEP 2000 and
- ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) filed 11 SEP 2000 and
- ☐ Assignment document.
- ☐ Power of Attorney and/or Change of Address.
- ☐ Substitute specification filed
- ☐ Verified Statement Claiming Small Entity Status.
- ☒ Priority Document.
- ☐ Copy of the International Search Report ☐ and copies of the references cited therein.
- ☐ Other:

Docketed (CS)
 11-24-00
 filed

2. The following items **MUST** be furnished within the period set forth below in order to complete the requirements for acceptance under 35 U.S.C. 371:

- ☒ a. Translation of the application into English. Note a processing fee will be required if submitted later than the appropriate 20 or 30 months from the priority date.
 - ☐ The current translation is defective for the reasons indicated on the attached Notice of Defective Translation.
- ☒ b. Processing fee for providing the translation of the application and/or the Annexes later than the appropriate 20 or 30 months from the priority date (37 CFR 1.492(f)).
- ☒ c. Oath or declaration of the inventors, in compliance with 37 CFR 1.497(a) and (b), identifying the application by the international application number and international filing date.
 - ☐ The current oath or declaration does not comply with 37 CFR 1.497(a) and (b) for the reasons indicated on the attached PCT/DO/EO/917.
- ☐ d. Surcharge for providing the oath or declaration later than the appropriate 20 or 30 months from the priority date (37 CFR 1.492(e)).

3. Additional claim fees of \$ _____ as a ☐ large entity ☐ small entity, including any required multiple dependent claim fee, are required. Applicant must submit the additional claim fees or cancel the additional claims for which fees are due. See attached PTO-875.

ALL OF THE ITEMS SET FORTH IN 2(a)-2(d) AND 3 ABOVE MUST BE SUBMITTED WITHIN ONE MONTH FROM THE DATE OF THIS NOTICE OR BY ☐ 21 OR ☒ 31 MONTHS FROM THE PRIORITY DATE FOR THE APPLICATION, WHICHEVER IS LATER. FAILURE TO PROPERLY RESPOND WILL RESULT IN ABANDONMENT.

The time period set above may be extended by filing a petition and fee for extension of time under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a).

4. Translation of the Annexes **MUST** be submitted no later than the time period set above or the annexes will be cancelled. Note processing fee will be required if submitted later than 30 months from the priority date.

5. ☐ The Article-19 amendments are cancelled since a translation was not provided by the appropriate 20 (37 CFR 494(d)) or 30 (37 CFR 1.495(d)) months from the priority date.

Applicant is reminded that any communication to the United States Patent and Trademark Office must be mailed to the address given in the heading and include the U.S. application no. shown above. (37 CFR 1.5)

A copy of this notice *MUST* be returned with this response.

Enclosed:

☐ PCT/DO/EO/917 ☐ Notice of Defective Translation

☐ PTO-875

FORM PCT/DO/EO/905 (December 1997)

Telephone: 703-305-3656

P.K.
 Paulette Kidwell Paralegal